

SB 879 -- MISSOURI WORKS PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Brown

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Business Attraction and Retention by a vote of 9 to 0.

Under this bill, if the federal government is inviting states to compete for additional employment or employment expansion at military installations and the United States Department of Defense offers health insurance to all full-time employees in the state and certifies that it pays over 50% of their premiums, the Department of Defense may be a qualified company for purposes of the Missouri Works Program.

In order to apply for benefits under the Missouri Works Program, the United States Department of Defense must co-apply for benefits with an industrial development corporation or the Missouri development finance board. The co-applicant shall have a significant role in planning and operating the facility. If the United States Department of Defense is a co-applicant for benefits, it shall remit withholding taxes for new jobs under Missouri law. The Department of Economic Development shall then pay the industrial development corporation or the Missouri development finance board the amount it would have otherwise retained or received including any tax credits. If the industrial development corporation or the Missouri development finance board receives an incentive payment or proceeds from a tax credit, it shall be placed in a separate fund and solely used for expenses associated with the project facility. This bill also modifies the definition of "project facility base payroll" to include only taxable wages instead of all wages. This bill is identical to HB 2087 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill would attract military related jobs to Missouri, which are currently overlooked by the Missouri Works Program.

Testifying for the bill was Senator Brown.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.